



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

INFORMATION SERVICE

COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Despite war difficulties and the nearness of actual battles the greatest red salmon producing section in the world, the Bristol Bay area of Alaska, produced five and a half times as much canned salmon by July 10 as for the same period last year, Coordinator of Fisheries Harold L. Ickes was informed today by representatives of his office in Alaska.

The pack reported by July 10 amounted to 759,000 cases. By the same date last year only 133,573 cases had been packed. In the prewar year of 1941 only 370,000 cases had been reported by July 10.

Half of the canning season still remains in the Bristol Bay Section and the run which is still going strong will apparently reach its peak this week, it was announced. Bristol Bay, which lies north of the Alaska peninsula, is a branch of the Bering Sea.

The pack in Bristol Bay this year was made possible only by intensive efforts on the part of the Office of the Coordinator of Fisheries to get equipment and manpower to the area. At one time most of the salmon industry's floating equipment in Bristol Bay was taken over by the Army but was returned at the request of the Coordinator's Office so that the industry could operate again this summer.

The entire Alaska salmon industry is operating under a concentration plan this year due to shortage of equipment and manpower. As a result of the plan 25 percent fewer packing plants are operating in the Territory but it is expected that the total pack will be greater than last year.